

A History of Clark County Mosquito Control District

Through 1982, mosquito control in Clark County fell under the programs of the Southwest Washington Health District. In a poor revenue cycle, local funding to the Health District was under close scrutiny and the mosquito control efforts were eliminated. During the summer of 1982, a group of citizens and private industry representatives organized to present the formation of a mosquito control "district" to the Clark County Board of Commissioners. The district was placed in the general election ballot of November 2, 1982. The Clark County Mosquito Control District was approved, along with a funding tax assessment of one (1%) percent per thousand dollars of assessed value. The amount collected in 1983 for beginning use in 1984 was approximately \$75,000.

On March 8, 1983, the first meeting was held of the newly formed district. The County Commissioners appointed a Board of Directors from each of its three districts, and representatives of the cities of Vancouver, Camas, Washougal, Ridgefield, and Battle Ground. Later, the towns of Yacolt and LaCenter would also join the Board.

Revenues from taxes first became available for use in January 1984. Receipts for the first year were \$74,010, of which \$73,999 was disbursed. The original bylaws were adopted in 1984, and are still in use. The district entered into a contractual relationship with the Southwest Washington Health District in 1984 to provide administrative and financial oversight. In 1990, both agencies agreed to continue the relationship automatically each year unless changes were deemed necessary. The relationship continues in effect today.

All assets of the District are recorded and audited annually. The district owns its assets (trucks, ATVs, boat, treatment and office equipment, etc.) and inventories are documented. A field shop is maintained at the Clark County Public Works facility in Vancouver, Washington. The land it is located on is owned by Clark County, and the building was constructed with Mosquito Control District funds. All fixed assets are kept at the field shop, except for "small and attractive" office equipment, which is moved to the Clark County Health Department offices site each fall for storage until the next mosquito season (April-September annually).

A fund balance has existed since the first balance of \$812 was realized in 1984. The amount has grown each year, expanding most recently as a site for a new location is under consideration. New property and a shop and office for the temporary staff will be resourced from the balance. Additionally, a portion of the fund balance is held as a "reserve" for emergency treatment and control activities associated with mosquito-borne diseases.